

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Social activists and women organisations had protested against the Miss World Pageant held at Bangalore on 23rd November, 1996 for a variety of reasons ranging from commodification of women to disparagement of Indian Womanhood.

(c) The Government acknowledges the right of freedom of expression of all sections of society

#### Vacant Posts of Ambassadors

1327. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Indian ambassadors functioning in various countries, category-wise;

(b) the posts of ambassadors which are lying vacant, country-wise and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(c) the number of ambassadors who belong to IFS and IAS categories and the number of such ambassadors who have been taken from non-Government sectors and who are not member of any specific Government Service?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) As of November, 1996, there are 100 Heads of Mission - 73 Ambassadors and 27 High Commissioners - working in various countries.

(b) At present, eleven posts of Heads of Mission are lying vacant. Of these, six Heads of Mission have already been appointed and are in the process of completing formalities for joining their respective Missions in Cambodia, Cuba, Syria, Vietnam, Yemen and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Action is underway to appoint Heads of Mission in Burkina Faso, Croatia, Maldives, Mozambique and North Korea.

(c) Out of 100 Heads of Mission presently functioning in various countries, 91 are career Diplomats belonging to the IFS. The other nine are eminent persons who have been drawn from various fields of public life but at present do not belong to any specific Government Service.

[Translation]

#### Purchasing of Ships

1328. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the name of ports for which orders have been placed for purchasing of ships;

(b) whether any funds have been allocated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these ships will be ready for passengers and for carrying goods?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No Major Port has placed orders for purchasing of any ships.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Youth Policy

1329. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to announce any Youth Policy like Foreign Policy, Agricultural Policy and Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any effective measures to provide jobs to the unemployed youths of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) and (b). A National Youth Policy already exists. There is a proposal to reformulate the Policy with a view to making it more need based.

(c) and (d). The existing Youth Policy, provides the youth with maximum access to education which, in addition to developing their allround personality, imparts appropriate professional and vocational training with a view to enabling them to avail of employment opportunities. Further, the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports have been implementing a number of schemes to impart skill development training to youth.

[English]

#### Falling of Nutrition Level

1330. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that nutrition levels in the country are falling at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that National Nutritional Council set up by Government has had any meetings;

(d) if so, the details of the meetings and the decisions taken therein; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The level of nutrition has actually improved from

62.5% in 1975-79 to 53.4% in 1992-93 among the children of 1-5 years of age.

(c) to (e). The Inter-ministerial Co-ordination Committee in the Department of Women & Child Development monitors the progress of the implementation of National Nutrition Policy, periodically. As the National Plan of Action for Nutrition has been formulated, it would be appropriate that the National Nutrition Council meet after some significant achievements are made in the sectoral plans.

#### **Purchase of SUKHOI-30 Fighters from Russia**

1331. DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deal for purchase of SUKHOI-30 Fighters from Russia has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Negotiations have been completed and the contract signed on 30th November, 1996. The contract provides for outright purchase of aircrafts, transfer of technology and subsequent production of the aircraft in the country.

#### **AIDS Control Kits**

1332. SHRI CHITTUBHAI GAMIT :  
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry supply AIDS control kits to voluntary organisations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the number of NGOs being supplied such kits in each State;

(d) whether the AIDS control kits supplied are sufficient to meet the demand; and

(e) if not, the measures Government have taken or propose to take to meet the demand fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The National AIDS Control Organisation supply HIV kits for various Centres including a few set-up by voluntary organisations in various States/UTs on the basis of recommendation of their respective State AIDS Programme Officer.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Jagdalpur-Nizamabad N.H.**

1333. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for the reconstruction of the said highway and the amount spent so far;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the reconstruction of the said highway and the amount spent so far;

(c) the time by which the reconstruction work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the time by which a big bridge is likely to be constructed over Indravati river on this road?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VANKATRAMAN) : (a) 470 Kms.

(b) and (c). Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are sanctioned each year subject to availability of funds. Works amounting to Rs. 10.67 crores have been sanctioned and are at various stages of progress.

(d) The bridge is at investigation stage. It is too early to indicate a timeframe.

#### **Expansion of Kandla Port**

1334. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a plan for the expansion of Kandla Port and sanctioned 30 jetties in its expansion programme;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 8 jetties have been built so far;

(c) the reasons for not taking over the work of remaining jetties; and

(d) the time required for the completion of all the work of jetties?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Kandla Port Trust has prepared a Perspective Master Plan of Kandla Port for development upto the year 2020 A.D. The Port has constructed 7 cargo berths and 4 Nos. Oil Jetties. In addition, 2 Virtual Jetties have been constructed by I.O.C. and H.P.C. and M/s. IFFCO are constructing a captive liquid jetty. Tenders for 8th, 9th and 10 cargo berths have been issued. Construction of 7 more cargo berths and 4 more oil jetties in future can be considered depending upon the requirement.